



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

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No. 37

RALEIGH, N. C.

MAY 15, 1949

MAY 1, 1949 GENERAL FARM REPORT

GENERAL CONDITION MAY 1

Weather conditions during April continued generally favorable for farming activities in North Carolina. Moisture supplies in some coastal counties were getting rather low, but general rains the last week of the month were adequate to replenish supplies. The occurrence of rainfall was too frequent in some Piedmont areas for the best progress, but most Spring farming activities were still on or ahead of schedule. Temperatures were too low during much of the month for good germination and crop growth.

The open weather during March and April permitted farmers in most areas to get their land in good shape early. Generally, seed beds are in very good condition. Planting of corn, cotton, tobacco and other spring seeded crops made rapid progress.

In southeastern counties the planting of corn is about completed and much of the acreage is up. In central and northern coastal regions rains have delayed planting, but seeding still is well advanced. About one-third of the planting is completed in Piedmont and mountain counties.

Transplanting of tobacco to fields is well advanced in Border Belt counties, with the condition of the crop running from fair in upper Border Belt counties to good in the lower counties. Nearly one-fourth of the crop in southern Eastern Belt counties had been set to fields, by May 1, but in the upper half of this belt transplanting is only getting underway good. Very little field setting has been done in the Middle and Old Belt areas. The loss of plants due to cold weather and blue mold has created considerable apprehension regarding plant supplies.

Wheat prospects declined some during April. Freeze damage was turning out to be greater than expected on Hardired and Redhart varieties. Also, mildew is present on wheat in most producing areas and the prevalence of rust is fairly general.

WHEAT PROSPECTS DECLINE

Prospects for North Carolina's 1949 wheat crop declined during April as it became apparent that March freeze damage was more extensive than expected. Also, infestations of mildew and rust increased considerably during the month with both diseases present on wheat in all areas. The May 1 forecast of production is for a crop of 6,780,000 bushels, compared with the April 1 estimate of 7,365,000 bushels. If realized, such a crop will be 12 percent above the short 1948 crop and about equal to the 10-year average production of 6,805,000 bushels. The acreage for harvest is now estimated at 452,000 acres, 16 percent greater than the acreage harvested in 1948, but 1.5 percent smaller than the 10-year average harvested acres. May 1 conditions point to a yield of 15 bushels per harvested acre, a half bushel below the average for the 1948 crop and two bushels below the record of 17 bushels produced in 1947.

Even though the overall outlook is lower, many growers who planted late and those using cold resistant varieties have excellent prospects.

STRAWBERRY HARVEST



PEACH PROSPECTS UNCHANGED

May 1 reports from peach producers indicate a peach crop of 1,660,000 bushels, practically the same production as last year but 25 percent below the 10-year average. Prospects for the commercial crop in the Sandhills section continue to be fairly good.

PEACH PRODUCTION

STATE	AVERAGE 1938-47	1948	IND 1949
THOUSAND BUSHELS			
N. C.....	2,220	1,646	1,660
S. C.....	3,671	3,160	2,739
GA.....	5,358	2,812	3,120
FLA.....	90	92	70
ALA.....	1,441	1,298	960
MISS.....	894	840	700
ARK.....	2,188	2,482	2,448
LA.....	296	330	337
OKLA.....	443	280	604
TEX.....	1,728	1,140	2,100
10 STATES	18,330	14,080	14,738

RYE PROSPECTS GOOD

May 1 prospects for rye production are good. It is estimated that yields from the 1949 crop will average 12 bushels per acre, a half bushel below the average last year and 2 bushels short of the record yield established by the 1947 crop. Indications point to 21,000 acres for harvest this year compared with 22,000 acres harvested last year and the 10-year average of 40,000 acres. Such an acreage and average yield will give a crop of 252,000 bushels, compared with 275,000 bushels produced last year.

CONDITION OF OAT CROP GOOD

The condition of the oat crop as of May 1 is generally good. While the oat crop suffered some freeze damage and is being attacked by mosaic, helminthosporium and mildew in some sections, prospects are relatively good compared with the wheat crop. About 63 percent of the 1949 acreage was fall sown compared with 54 percent in 1948 and the average of 58 percent.

TOBACCO PRODUCTION - 1947 and 1948

Acreage, Yield, Production and Value

All Flue-cured Tobacco and North Carolina Burley Tobacco

PRODUCING STATE	TYPE NO.	ACREAGE HARVESTED		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION		AV. PRICE PER LB. REC'D BY FARMERS		VALUE OF PRODUCTION	
		1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
		ACRES		POUNDS		THOUSAND POUNDS		CENTS		THOUSAND DOLLARS	
FLUE-CURED:											
VIRGINIA.....	11	111,000	87,000	1,080	1,230	119,880	107,010	38.9	49.9	46,633	53,398
NORTH CAROLINA.....	11	302,000	233,000	1,060	1,190	320,120	277,270	40.1	49.8	128,368	138,080
TOTAL OLD BELT.....	11	413,000	320,000	1,065	1,201	440,000	384,280	39.8	49.8	175,001	191,478
TOTAL EASTERN N.C. BELT.....	12	387,000	290,000	1,205	1,285	466,335	372,650	43.1	49.5	200,990	184,462
NORTH CAROLINA.....	13	94,000	71,000	1,125	1,260	105,750	89,460	42.7	51.3	45,155	45,893
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	13	137,000	104,000	1,135	1,265	155,495	131,560	41.8	50.3	64,997	66,175
TOTAL S. C. BELT.....	13	231,000	175,000	1,131	1,263	261,245	221,020	42.2	50.7	110,152	112,068
TOTAL GA.-FLA. BELT.....	14	130,200	98,800	1,151	1,130	149,886	111,634	37.8	47.4	56,680	52,955
TOTAL ALL FLUE-CURED.....	11-14	1,161,200	883,800	1,135	1,233	1,317,466	1,089,584	41.2	49.6	542,823	540,963
TOTAL N.C. FLUE-CURED.....	11-14	783,000	594,000	1,139	1,245	892,205	739,380	42.0	49.8	374,513	368,435
TOTAL N. C. BURLEY.....	31	9,600	10,300	1,560	1,680	14,976	17,304	42.3	46.3	6,335	8,012

FINAL COTTON REPORT FOR 1948

The final cotton report for the season places North Carolina's 1949 cotton production at 678,000 bales (500 lb. grossweight). This is 52 percent above the 452,000 bales produced in 1947 and the largest crop since 1944.

Cottonseed production from the 1948 crop totaled 282,000 tons, compared with 177,000 tons from the previous year's crop.

The combined value of North Carolina's cotton and cottonseed production totaled \$121,023,000. This is \$33,148,000 above combined value of the 1947 crop. The value of the 1948 crop of lint is estimated at \$104,018,000.

The acreage in cultivation in the State on July 1, 1948 totaled 730,000 acres or about 12 percent more than the 1947 acreage of 654,000. Abandonment accounted for less than 1 percent of the 1948 crop, leaving 725,000 acres harvested, compared with 647,000 acres harvested in 1947.

The final cotton report places the total 1948 production in the United States at 14,868,000 bales of 500 pounds grossweight. This compares with the 1947 crop of 11,857,000 bales and the 10-year average of 12,014,000 bales. The 1948 crop was the largest since 1937 and is the seventh largest on record.

The combined value of cotton and cottonseed production in the United States, computed at \$2,641,336,000, is the highest on record, with lint valued at \$2,241,077,000 and cottonseed at \$400,259,000.

1948 TOBACCO PRODUCTION

Production of flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina in 1948 totaled 739,380,000 pounds, or 17.1 percent less than the 892,205,000 pounds produced in 1947. This is the lowest total production since 1944, although the fifth largest crop of record. North Carolina's flue-cured crop was harvested from a total of 594,000 acres, which was 24.1 percent less than the 1947 harvested acres. The average yield per acre for flue-cured tobacco in the state has been progressively moving upward since 1943 reaching an all-time high of 1,245 pounds in 1948. At a total value of \$368,435,000 the 1948 crop meant more gross dollars to North Carolina farmers than any crop of record except for 1946 and 1947. The states' golden weed brought an average of 49.8 cents per pound, which is the top price of record.

North Carolina's burley crop totaled 17,304,000 pounds, averaging 1,680 pounds per acre from the 10,300 acres harvested last year. Growers received an average of 46.3 cents per pound for their burley crop which was exceeded only by the 1943 and 1944 average prices.

In the first two months of 1949 exports of unmanufactured tobacco totaled 83 million pounds compared with 57 million pounds a year earlier.

Cotton exports have been running double 1947-48 and are expected to exceed 4 million bales this season.

RECORD MILK PRODUCTION

Production of milk on North Carolina farms during the month of April totaled 157 million pounds, an all-time record high for this month. This compares with 126 million pounds for March of this year and 132 million pounds for April a year ago.

Milk flow per cow in herds during April averaged 388 pounds, a 30-pound increase from the production of March but only 18 pounds above the production per cow for April a year ago.

Total milk cows on farms in April continued to remain at an estimated 353,000 head, or 4,000 less than for April last year. Since the number of milk cows on farms has remained relatively stable, the high level of total milk production has been brought about through optimum utilization of pastures, which have been in excellent condition in most areas, the seasonal increase in milk flow due to spring freshening and good management practices.

EGG PRODUCTION HIGHER

Production of eggs on North Carolina farms during April totaled 127 million or 1 million over production during the previous month, as well as an increase of 5 million over April of last year.

About 7,364,000 layers were on farms during April of this year, compared with 7,001,000 layers during the same period last year. Total number of layers on farms in March this year was recorded at 7,721,000 layers or nearly 300,000 more layers than were present on farms during April.

Rate of lay per 100 layers continued to increase during April with 1728 eggs per 100 layers recorded for the month, giving an increase of 97 eggs per 100 layers over the previous month.

NORTH CAROLINA FINAL COTTON SUMMARY

ITEMS	UNIT	1947	1948
ACRES HARVESTED.....	ACRES	647,000	725,000
YIELD PER ACRE (LINT).....	LBS.	335	447
PRODUCTION (LINT) 1/.....	BALES	452,000	678,000
AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED (LB).....	CENTS	32.59	30.7
VALUE OF PRODUCTION (LINT).....	DOLS.	73,644,000	104,018,000
PRODUCTION (COTTONSEED).....	TONS	177,000	282,000
AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED (TON).....	DOLS.	80.40	60.30
VALUE OF PRODUCTION (COTTONSEED).....	DOLS.	14,231,000	17,005,000
VALUE OF PRODUCTION (LINT & SEED).....	DOLS.	87,875,000	121,023,000

1/ 500 pounds gross weight bales.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND VALUE OF CROPS, 1948 PRELIMINARY

CROPS	UNIT	PROD- UCTION	USED FOR SEED		FED TO LIVE- STOCK	FOR USE IN FARM HOUSEHOLD	SOLD	SEASON'S AV. PRICE RE- CEIVED BY FARMERS	VALUE OF PRODUCT- ION	VALUE OF PRODUCTS USED IN HOUSE- HOLD	1/VALUE OF SALES
			TOTAL	ON FARM WHERE GROWN							
		(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	DOLLARS	THOUSAND DOLLARS		
WHEAT.....	BU.	6,045	736	552	1,451	714	3,328	2.28	13,783	1,628	7,588
RYE.....	BU.	275	139	39	96	4	136	2.28	627	9	310
CORN, ALL PURPOSES.	BU.	69,006	2/-	-	2/55,073	1,936	11,997	1.35	93,158	2,614	16,196
OATS.....	BU.	7,965	2/-	-	2/ 5,655	-	2,310	1.03	8,204	-	2,379
BARLEY.....	BU.	799	2/-	-	2/ 663	-	136	1.66	1,326	-	226
COTTON.....	BAL.	678	-	-	-	-	678	.307-	104,018	-	-
COTTONSEED.....	TONS	282	12.8	-	-	-	-	60.30	17,005	-	-
HAY, ALL.....	TONS	1,284	-	-	1,181	-	103	29.00	37,236	-	2,987
LESPEDEZA, SEED....	LB.	36,000	-	14,800	-	-	21,200	.115	4,140	-	2,438
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS	BU.	3,564	539	270	143	-	3,151	2.20	7,841	-	6,932
COWPEAS, FOR PEAS..	BU.	132	75	49	9	16	58	5.00	660	80	290
PEANUTS, PICKED AND THRESHED.....	LB.	350,350	22,100	17,459	1,051	2,590	329,250	.107	37,487	277	35,230
IRISH POTATOES, ALL	BU.	10,508	704	113	525	2,556	3/ 7,314	1.61	16,918	4,115	11,776
SWEETPOTATOES.....	BU.	5,635	282	212	1,296	2,070	2,057	2.30	12,960	4,761	4,731
SORGHUM GRAIN.....	BU.	462	2/-	-	2/ 346	-	116	1.19	550	-	138
SORGHUM SIRUP.....	GAL.	680	-	-	-	397	283	1.90	1,292	-	538
APPLES (COMMERCIAL CROP).....	BU.	976	-	-	-	400	576	2.00	1,952	800	1,152
PEACHES.....	BU.	1,646	-	-	-	416	1,230	2.65	4,362	1,102	3,260
PEARS.....	BU.	209	-	-	-	170	39	2.00	418	340	78
GRAPES.....	TONS	5,600	-	-	-	3,400	2,200	176.00	986	599	387
PECANS, ALL.....	LB.	2,752	-	-	-	760	1,992	.19	532	145	387
PECANS, IMPROVED...	LB.	2,450	-	-	-	650	1,800	.20	490	130	360
PECANS, WILD OR SEEDLING.....	LB.	302	-	-	-	110	192	.14	42	15	27

1/ The values shown are for the marketing season or crop year and should not be confused with calendar year income.

2/ Seed not shown separately, combined with "Fed to livestock".

3/ Consists of potatoes sold and to be sold for food, seed, processing, and all purchases by the Government under price support program.

N. C. CROPS IN 1948

The above table shows production and a general disposition break-down of principal crops grown in North Carolina in 1948. In addition, average prices received and values are shown. Similar information is shown for tobacco on the preceding page.

Total cash receipts from farm marketings in the State in 1948 amounted to \$617,112,000, slightly below 1947 receipts of \$627,062,000.

HAYS AND PASTURES GOOD

North Carolina's early hay crops on May 1, were in exceptionally good condition. At an estimated 88 percent of normal, present prospects are for record tonnage. Alfalfa hay got off to a good start during the mild winter and early spring months. Cutting of alfalfa and grain hays was getting underway in many sections. Lespedeza for hay has made good growth to date.

Pastures throughout the State continued to respond to the highly favorable weather. The reported condition of pastures as of May 1, at 90 percent, was the highest of record.

GOOD IRISH POTATO CROP

The prospective production of commercial early Irish potatoes in North Carolina, as of May 1, is 5,280,000 bushels from 24,000 acres. This production would mean a yield of 220 bushels per acre, which is the second

highest yield of record. Both the highest yield and production record came in 1946 when an average of 225 bushels per acre was produced on 36,000 acres--a total production of 8,100,000 bushels. In 1948, 6,510,000 bushels were produced for an average yield of 210 bushels from 31,000 acres. The average yield for the 10-year period (1938-47) is 148 bushels per acre, resulting in an average production of around 5,047,000 bushels.

The California commercial early crop is currently expected to produce 27,720,000 bushels or about 14 percent below last year's production.

Total production of late spring commercial early Irish potatoes in the United States is estimated at 39,630,000 bushels, comparing with 44,787,000 bushels produced in 1948.

TRUCK CROPS PROSPECTS

STRAWBERRIES: Conditions of strawberries in North Carolina as of May 1 point to a production of 132,000 24-quart crates or an average yield of 55 crates per acre. Cool, dry weather during April and heavy Red Spider infestation have damaged the 2400-acre crop considerably. Production for the State in 1948 was 196,000 crates for an average yield of 85 crates per acre.

CABBAGE: The state's 2,200-acre late spring cabbage crop is expected to produce 14,300 tons--an average yield of 6.5 tons per acre. Last year's production was 12,000 tons on 2,000 acres.

LETTUCE: It is now estimated that the crop will produce 182,000 crates (4-6 doz.) for an average yield of 130 crates per acre from 1400 acres. Production in 1948 was 160,000 crates from 1300 acres.

BEETS: Prospective production from North Carolina's 250 acres of spring beets is estimated at 62,000 bushels, which would be a yield of 250 bushels per acre.

WATERMELONS: Reports from farmers indicate that about 10,700 acres of watermelons are being planted in the state this year. This acreage is lower than earlier intentions but is still higher than the 1948 acreage of 10,000 acres.

CUCUMBERS: According to reports from growers, there will be about 7,700 acres of late spring cucumbers grown for fresh market in the state this year. This is about 15 percent above last year's 6,700 acres.

SNAP BEANS: North Carolina's late spring snap bean crop for fresh market is estimated at 6,500 acres. The condition of the crop on May 1 points to a production of 552,000 bushels for an average yield of 85 bushels per acre.

GREEN PEPPERS: Preliminary reports from North Carolina farmers show that about 4,100 acres of early summer green peppers are being grown in the state this year--about 21 percent above the 3,400 acres harvested last year.

GREEN PEAS: The May 1 condition of the state's 250 acres of early spring green peas indicates a production of 25,000 bushels--an average yield of 100 bushels per acre.

FARM REPORT

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MAY 1949

FARM REPORT

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CASH FARM RECEIPTS UP SLIGHTLY

It is estimated that North Carolina farmers received \$28,021,000 from the sale of their products in January. This compares with \$27,881,000 received January a year ago. Increased receipts from farm marketings during January of this year are accounted for by increased marketings and the quantity of products, such as cotton, placed under loan, since prices received for commodities so far this year are below last year.

Livestock and livestock products accounted for 31.6 percent of the total cash receipts in January 1948 and 28.7 percent in January 1949.

HAY SUPPLY ADEQUATE

As of May 1 there were an estimated 308,000 tons of all hays from the 1948 crop on farms in North Carolina. This compares with 288,000 tons a year ago and an average of 266,000 tons. The current favorable on-farm supplies of hays can be partly attributed to the above normal utilization of pastures for livestock feeding during the winter and early spring months as a consequence of the mild, favorable weather.

FACT DIGEST

Farmers' cash receipts from marketings in April were nearly 2 billion dollars, about the same as in March, but about 4 percent under a year ago.

Cash receipts from farmers' marketings for the first four months of '49 totaled a little less than in '48. Quantity of products marketed was up, but prices were down.

MARCH LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER ABOVE FEBRUARY

Livestock slaughter in commercial plants in North Carolina during March 1949 totaled 43,100 head for all species. This compares with 42,100 head slaughtered in February of this year and with 56,300 head slaughtered in March 1948.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, MARCH 1949 AND 1948*

SPECIES	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	
	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
	THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. LBS.		THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. LBS.	
CATTLE	11.1	5.9	8,316	4,848	1,487	1,542	1,373,604	1,476,547
CALVES	12.8	8.1	1,696	1,197	1,070	1,039	176,752	175,827
HOGS	32.0	29.0	6,912	6,532	4,826	5,379	1,167,379	1,290,667
SHEEP & LAMBS	.4	.1	36	9	1,298	1,029	130,099	100,928

* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

APRIL WEATHER SUMMARY

The weather during April was quite typical of a spring month. Temperatures were rather erratic during the month in all sections of the State, but averaged near the seasonal normal. Readings in the upper 70's and 80's occurred on a few days followed by several days with maximum temperatures in the 50's and 60's. Frost occurred several times during the month with temperatures well below freezing in the upper Piedmont and Mountain areas on the 17th and light frost and even some heavy frost occurred in the remainder of the Piedmont and western Coastal Plains. The total amount of precipitation for the month was below the long-time average in most sections. Soil moisture, however, continued adequate for the most part over all of the state.

